

Message Text

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43

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /023 W

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R 230540Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8679

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DEPT PASS AGRIC FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: CITRUS/FUNGICIDES

REF: TOKYO 5356

1. SUMMARY. AGATT REPS DISCUSSED SUBJ VIA PHONE WITH SHIRASU AND IN PERSON WITH MHW MIYAZAWA, APR 22. SHIRASU STILL OPTIMISTIC BUT CONCERNED THAT DELAY IN CYTOGENETIC AND DOMINANT

LEMHAL RESEARCH ON TBZ COULD RESULT IN UNFORTUNATE DELAY IN TBZ APPROVAL. MIYAZAWA SEES NO PROBLEM IN MHW ADOPTING CODEX TOLERANCE ON BOTH CHEMICALS (10 PPM) ONCE FSIC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. PLEASE GIVE STATUS ARS RESEARCH MENTIONED STATE 067825. END SUMMARY.

2. SHIRASU SAID HAD INFORMALLY GIVEN MHW COPY REPORT ON HIS FIRST TIER STUDIES AND DISCUSSED MATTER WITH THEM AND LATER WITH MAF OFFICIALS. SAID MHW, IN TYPICAL FASHION, WISHED THERE WAS A LITTLE MORE DATA, BUT PLANS GO AHEAD START LAYING NECESSARY GROUND WORK PURSUANT TO HOLDING FOOD SANITATION INVESTIGATION COUNCIL (FSIC) MEETING ON MATTER. SHIRASU SUGGESTED FOR FIRST TIME THAT SINCE MERCK OR SOMEONE IN US REFUSES CONTRACT RESEARCH WITH SRI AND SINCE HIS LAB TOO BUSY START RESEARCH IMMEDIATELY TO SHOW FISC GOOD FAITH, MAY BE CHANCE OPP WILL BE APPROVED FIRST WITHOUT TBZ. US INDUSTRY MAY WISH CONSIDER CONTRACTING WITH SRI ON THEIR OWN.

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3. AGATT REPS REQUESTED MHW INFORMALLY TO ADOPT CODEX TOLERANCE LEVEL OF 10 PPM FOR BOTH CHEMICALS, POINTING OUT CONFUSION AND COMPLICATION IN TRADE AND AMONG US PACKERS SHOULD JAPAN DECIDE ON LOWER TOLERANCE. MIYAZAWA REPLIED THAT ONCE FSIC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL, MHW SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM SETTING TOLERANCE AT CODEX LEVEL.

4. AGATT ASKED HOW SOON FSIC CAN MEET AND ABOUT WHEN APPROVAL MIGHT BE EXPECTED. MIYAZAWA, AS USUAL, UNCOMMITTAL BUT EXHIBITED DESIRE TO HOLD COUNCIL MTG ASAP AFTER INDIVIDUAL CONCURRENCE OBTAINED FROM CERTAIN KEY INDIVIDUALS. HE SAID ONCE COUNCIL RECOMMENDS APPROVAL, USUALLY TAKES ONE TO ONE AND HALF MONTHS FOR FINAL OFFICIAL APPROVAL; BUT US PACKERS COULD BEGIN USING CHEMICALS SHORTLY AFTER FSIC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL AS FINAL APPROVAL WOULD FOLLOW AUTOMATICALLY AND SHIPPING TIME IS ABOUT ONE MONTH.

5. AGATT REPS SUGGESTED THAT INCREASED SPOILAGE RATES ALMOST CERTAIN TO BRING INCREASED PRESSURE FROM US SIDE SO EARLY APPROVAL VERY IMPORTANT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. AGATT NOT YET IN RECEIPT FIRST TIER DATA MENTIONED STATE 067825. STATUS REPORT PLEASE.
HODGSON

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